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INL researcher to lead international proliferation prevention board

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Idaho National Laboratory (INL) today announced that researcher Trudy Overlin has been elected to serve a two-year term as chairperson of the Inter-laboratory Board of the Global Initiatives for Proliferation Prevention (GIPP) program. In this capacity, Overlin will serve as a liaison between DOE and 12 national laboratories on international nonproliferation projects conducted jointly by the United States and the former Soviet Union and other countries.

"The GIPP program is incredibly beneficial in terms of national security, as well as for consumers worldwide," Overlin said. "I'm excited to see INL's nonproliferation programs receive increased recognition within the global community."

As chairwoman, Overlin will be active in current research programs and will assist in the evaluation of new technology proposals. Her term as chairperson began this month. Overlin currently serves as technical lead for the Chemical and Biological Review Committee for the GIPP program. Her election as chairwoman is the first time an INL employee has been selected to lead the board.

The program was established by DOE in 1994 as a way to redirect weapons scientists from the former Soviet Union and other countries to use their science background and knowledge to work on peaceful, nonmilitary projects. By engaging and creating new career opportunities for these scientists, the program enhances both national and global security. Recently, the program has expanded work into Libya and Iraq.

Through a unique relationship with DOE, national laboratories and private commercial industries, former weapons scientists are given an opportunity to use their technical background to develop valuable commercial products. The program has already sponsored the successful development and licensing of technologies including advanced cancer detection devices, ultra-fine bacteria and virus filters, and microbes for oil pollution decontamination. Many former weapons scientists rank among the best in the world in theoretical science, materials and sensor development.

INL is one of DOE's ten multiprogram national laboratories. It performs work in each of the strategic goal areas of DOE – energy, national security, science and environment. More specifically, INL is the nation's leading center of nuclear energy research and development.

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